



HR1130

LRB097 21785 KXB 70350 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Iola
4 McGowan of Chicago, who passed away on May 24, 2012; and

5 WHEREAS, Iola McGowan was born on September 8, 1936; proud
6 of her West Side roots, she graduated from Farragut High School
7 in 1954; she started a family and spearhead neighborhood
8 efforts in her area; she later graduated from Northeastern
9 Illinois University; and

10 WHEREAS, She began her political career at the precinct
11 level; she ascended through the ranks of the Democratic Party
12 to become the Director of Consumer Services for the City of
13 Chicago under former Mayor Jane Byrne, serving a 6-year term;
14 she was then appointed to head the Model Cities Community
15 Services program; she also developed an innovative classroom
16 coloring book to teach children about becoming educated
17 consumers; and

18 WHEREAS, She was a former Vice Chairman of the Illinois
19 State Democratic Party and the Democratic National Committee;
20 and she served as a Chicago Park District Commissioner; and

21 WHEREAS, Iola McGowan was known as the "First Lady of the

1 Westside" and served as the 29th Ward Committeeman for 4 years;
2 she also served on the Board of Cook County Department of
3 Corrections; and

4 WHEREAS, Iola McGowan was preceded in death by her husband,
5 Adam "Donald" McGowan; her mother, Ernestine Martin; and her
6 sister, Anna Pearson; and

7 WHEREAS, Iola McGowan is survived by her children, Rhonda
8 Stivers (fiance, Matthew), Gregory McGowan (Patricia), and
9 Allison McGowan (fiance, Shawn); her sister, Laverne Schaffer;
10 her grandchildren, Jason Stivers, Ashley McGowan, and Whitney
11 McGowan; and a host of nieces, nephews, family members, and
12 friends; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we mourn, along with her family and friends, the passing of
16 Iola McGowan; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Iola McGowan as a symbol of our
19 sincere sympathy.